

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Workforce Development Letter

ID/No:	WD 26-18
Date:	November 12, 2018
Keyword:	AEL; Choices; TANF; WIOA
Effective:	January 1, 2019

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Offices
Integrated Service Area Managers

Courtney Arbour

From: Courtney Arbour, Director, Workforce Development Division

Subject: **Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) Version 11&12**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Workforce Development (WD) Letter is to provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with information and guidance on the new Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE), version 11&12.

RESCISSIONS:

None

BACKGROUND:

The TABE assesses an adult learner's basic skills and knowledge and determines whether he or she is basic-skills deficient. Boards currently use TABE 9&10 for this assessment. Additionally, the TABE is an approved test for use by AEL providers that receive Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) funding.

In September 2017, the US Department of Education's (ED) National Reporting System (NRS) approved the TABE 11&12 for a seven-year period. TABE 11&12 contains significant enhancements that align with college and career readiness standards. TABE 11&12 is more rigorous than TABE 9&10 and includes new administrative requirements, revised answer forms, and revised suggested testing times. Additional information is available at <http://tabetest.com/students-2/tabe-1112/>.

To provide a transition period to the TABE 11&12, ED announced in September 2018 that the TABE 9&10 was approved for use through a sunset period that ends on June 30, 2019.

Boards currently use the TABE to:

- assess Choices individuals to determine their grade-level literacy for TANF benefits;
- measure basic-skills deficiency for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act adult and youth eligibility; and
- measure educational functioning level of an individual through a pretest and a posttest that measure the participant’s progress toward educational and skills outcomes known as Measurable Skill Gains (MSGs).

PROCEDURES:

No Local Flexibility (NLF): This rating indicates that Boards must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this WD Letter and have no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by “must” or “shall.”

Local Flexibility (LF): This rating indicates that Boards have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this WD Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”

NLF: Boards must be aware that the TABE 9&10 has been replaced with the newer version, TABE 11&12.

NLF: Boards must begin phasing out the use of TABE 9&10 immediately. TABE’s publisher, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), has already begun discontinuing its support of the TABE 9&10. TABE 9&10 will be completely phased out by June 30, 2019, and will no longer be approved for use.

NLF: Boards must begin using TABE 11&12 for new participants beginning January 1, 2019.

NLF: Boards must be aware that the TABE Locator must be administered first to determine which TABE level assessment to administer to the participant.

NLF: Boards must adhere to [test publisher guidelines for the TABE](#) to ensure proper test administration, scoring, and placement for appropriate service delivery.

NLF: Boards must be aware of the following:

- The TABE 11&12 Locator assessment has been lengthened to one hour and 40 minutes.
- The TABE 11&12 includes five test sections, each containing approximately 40 questions:
 - Reading, Part 1;
 - Reading, Part 2;
 - Math, Part 1;
 - Math, Part 2; and
 - Language.

- The TABE 11&12 no longer contains a Complete Battery form or a shorter Survey form.

LF: Boards are encouraged to consider working with AEL system partners, including local AEL providers and the AEL professional development center at the Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy and Learning (TCALL). Partnerships with local providers can result in efficiencies such as local proctoring of the TABE 11&12 for participants, sharing of tests scored between entities, and providing local technical assistance on testing and TABE administration. Additionally, Boards may participate in the TABE 11&12 training through TCALL.

LF: Boards may continue to use TABE 9&10 as follows:

- Pretesting: Boards may use TABE 9&10 until December 31, 2018, for pretesting.
- Posttesting: Boards may use TABE 9&10 to posttest participants through June 30, 2019.

NLF: If Boards choose to posttest participants using TABE 9&10, Boards must test the participant's progress before June 30, 2019, the end of the program year.

NLF: Boards must pretest and posttest using the same version of the TABE.

NLF: Boards that are also AEL grantees must continue to adhere to TWC's AEL test administration guidance.

INQUIRIES:

Send inquiries regarding this WD Letter to wfpolicy.clarifications@twc.state.tx.us.

REFERENCES:

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, §116, Performance Accountability System

Online tools training information for administering computer-based tests:

<http://tabetest.com/students-2/tabe-1112/>

TABE certification information for administering paper-based tests:

<https://tabetest.com/tabe-1112-certification-process/>